

REMARKS

I. INTRODUCTION

Claims 1, 4, 6-9 and 11 have been amended. No new matter has been added. Thus, claims 1-11 are pending in the present application. Applicants would like to thank the Examiner for indicating that claims 3 and 6 contain allowable subject matter. In view of the above amendments and following remarks, it is respectfully submitted that all of the presently pending claims are allowable.

II. THE OBJECTION TO THE DECLARATION

The Examiner has objected to the Declarations. (See 07/03/2008 Office Action p.

- 2). In view of the new Declarations submitted herewith, the objection should be withdrawn.

III. THE 35 U.S.C. § 112 REJECTIONS SHOULD BE WITHDRAWN

Claims 1-11 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. (See 07/03/2008 Office Action p. 2-3).

Claim 1 recites “[d]evice for treating garments (20), comprising,” claim 7 recites “[d]evice for treatment garments, comprising” and claim 9 recites “[m]ethod of treating garments (20), comprising.” Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1-11 are definite and particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter of the invention.

IV. THE 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) REJECTIONS SHOULD BE WITHDRAWN

Claims 1, 2 and 7-11 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,636,773 to Harrod et al. (hereinafter “Harrod”). (See 07/03/08 Office Action, p. 3-4).

Claims 1, 2 and 7-9 and 11 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated Korean document 20-0201898 (hereinafter “Korean document”). (See 07/03/08 Office Action, p. 4-5).

Harrod describes a method and apparatus for concurrently pressing the front and back of a shirt and finishing the sleeves and for pressing the collar and cuffs of the shirt. (See Harrod col. 2, ll. 48-52). Harrod describes an apparatus that comprises a shirt buck and a supplemental shirt buck. (See Harrod Abstract).

Korean document describes a steam ironing apparatus that sprays steam onto laundry, the laundry hanging in an ironing room with a large internal space tightly sealed by a door. (See Korean document, 1st paragraph).

Claim 1 recites “[d]evice for treating garments (20), comprising: a garment holding enclosure (10) for receiving, enclosing, and moistening garments (20); at least one garment moistening tool (30; 35) having at least one outlet (34) for supplying a moistening agent to garments (20) located outside the garment holding enclosure (10); moistening agent supplying means (26; 32, 34; 33, 46; 36) for supplying the moistening agent to the garment holding enclosure (10); and *a standby area (41) for supporting the garment moistening tool (30; 35) when it is in a standby state.*

The Examiner has stated that claim 6 contains allowable subject matter. (See 07/03/08 Office Action, p. 6). Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate subject matter recited in allowable claim 6. Specifically, claim 1 recites “*a standby area (41) for supporting the garment moistening tool (30; 35) when it is in a standby state.*” As the Examiner has indicated, neither Harrod nor the Korean document, either alone or in combination, teach or suggest this recitation

of claim 1. Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 1 is allowable. Because claim 2 depends from, and therefore includes all the limitations of claim 1, it is respectfully submitted that claim 2 is also allowable for at least the same reasons given above with respect to claim 1.

Independent claim 7 recites “[d]evice for treatment garments, comprising a garment holding enclosure (10) for receiving, enclosing, and moistening garments (20); wherein at least a portion of a casing (12, 13, 14, 15) of the garment holding enclosure (10) is permeable to moistening agent vapor; *and a resting pad (55) for supporting a garment steaming tool (30).*” Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that independent claim 7 is allowable for at least the same reasons as claim 1. Because claim 8 depends from, and therefore includes all the limitations of claim 7, it is respectfully submitted that claim 8 is also allowable for at least the same reasons given above with respect to claim 7.

Independent claim 9 recites “[m]ethod of treating garments (20), comprising the following successive steps: a) moistening the garments (20) inside a garment holding enclosure (10) by supplying moistening agent to the garment holding enclosure (10); b) ironing the garments (20) by pressing the garments (20) between an ironing board (40) and an iron (30) having a heatable sole plate (31), during which moistening agent is supplied to the garments (20); and c) *placing the iron (30) on a standby area (41) when the iron is in a standby state.*” Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that independent claim 9 is allowable for at least the same reasons as claim 1. Because claims 10-11 depend from, and therefore include all the limitations of claim 9, it is respectfully submitted that these claims are also allowable for at least the same reasons given above with respect to claim 9.

V. THE 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) REJECTIONS SHOULD BE WITHDRAWN

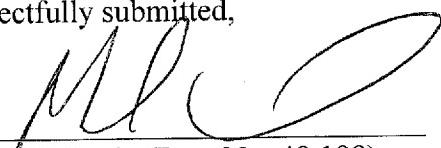
Claims 4 and 5 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Korean document in view of U.S. Patent No. 2,785,557 to Stillwell, Jr. et al. (hereinafter “Stillwell, Jr.”). (See 07/03/2008 Office Action p. 3-5).

Applicants submit that Stillwell, Jr. does not cure the above described deficiencies of the Korean document with respect to claim 1. Therefore, Applicants submit that claim 1 is patentable over Stillwell, Jr. Because claims 4 and 5 depend from, and therefore includes all the limitations of claim 1, it is respectfully submitted that this claim is also allowable for at least the same reasons given above with respect to claim 1.

CONCLUSION

In light of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that all of the now pending claims are in condition for allowance. All issues raised by the Examiner having been addressed. An early and favorable action on the merits is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

By: 
Michael Marcin (Reg. No. 48,198)

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Fay Kaplun & Marcin, LLP
150 Broadway, Suite 702
New York, NY 10038
Phone: 212-619-6000
Fax: 212-619-0276